Growing Pneumoconiosis disease among coal miners

3185. SHRI RAMNARAYAN GOSWAMI : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the pneumoconiosis disease is growing among the coal miners in BCCL, ECL and in other coal companies;

(b) whether it is also a fact that proper and quick diagnosis is not done due to lack of modern equipments which is turning the medical checkups into a farce;

(c) if so, what action has been taken by Government; and

(d) whether Government contemplate any measures to improve the work environment, combat air pollution, adopt preventive and curative health system and change the method of producing soft coke by LTC plant ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COAL IN THE MINISTRY OF ENREGY (SHRI C. K. JAFFAR SHARIEF) : (a) No, Sir. There is no evidence to suggest that the disease is increasing among the coal miners.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Detailed environmental management plans form an integral part of all coal projects. These plans cover measures for combating pollution and improving the work environment. Continuous efforts are made to improve the medical care to the workers both in the preventive and curative aspects, and greater emphasis is being given to early detection of Pneumoconiosis cases through regular medical examination of the workers. Steps have also been initiated to replace the traditional soft coke making process by special smokeless fuel (SSF) plants, significantly minimising air pollution.

Demaged agricultural land under Mouza Nimcha in Raniganj Coalfield

3186. SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that 65 plots of agricultural land under Mouza Nimcha in Raniganj Coalfield, West Bengal have been completely damaged and rendered unsuitable for agricultural purposes due to depillaring at Modern Satgram Colliery ECL;

(b) whether it is also a fact that a number of villagers of Nimcha have made a representation to the General Manager, ECL in this connection; and

(c) if so, what action has been taken to compensate the residents of the village ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COAL IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI C. K. JAFFAR SHARIEF) : (a) and (b). The residents of village Nimcha, Police Station Raniganj, Asansol had lodged a complaint with the General Manager, Eastern Coalfields Limited Satgram area in January, 1988 about the depillaring operations in Modern Satgram Colliery. About 22.33 acres of land are reported to be affected by the depillaring operations in the area.

(c) ECL has offered payment of crop compensation to the affected villagers at the existing rate of Rs. 275 per year per Bigha for 5 years in addition to levelling charges of the land. The villagers have not accepted the crop compensation offered by the company and want compensation at higher rates. The company has now set up a committee to look into the demand.

Ignoring of expertise of the National Laboratories by CIL

3187. DR. R. K. PODDAR : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to

(a) whether it is a fact that CIL ignores the National Laboratories and gets samples tested at private laboratories;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the private laboratories are mostly headed and managed by retired officials of different CIL subsidiaries;

(c) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(d) what are the rates charged by the National Laboratories and by the private Laboratories, separately;

(e) what amounts have been paid to the private Laboratories during the last 3 years laboratory wise; and

(f) what action Government have taken against these malpractices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COAL IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI C. K. JAFFAR SHARIEF) : (a) No, Sir. After fully utilising the capacities of CMPDIL and coal survey laboratories of Central Fuel Research Institute, excess coal core samples are got analysed at private laboratories.

(b) and (c) After their retirement from regular service, the officials of CIL do seek employment with private parties. Government however have no information of the number of retired employees having taken up employment with private coal testing laboratories.

(d) The schedule of rates applicable to CFRI and to private Laboratories for certain parameters is given below :—

Sl. No.	Parameters	CFRI	Pvt. Laboratories
		(Rates in Rupees)	
1	Ash	40	14 50
2	Volatile Matter	40	13.00
3	Gross Calorific Value	140	35.00
4	Caking Index	110	42.00
5	Swelling Index	100	48.00
6	Sulphur	180	35.00
7	Carbonate Carbon dioxide	110	27.00

(e) The details of the amounts paid to some of the private laboratories by CIL is as follows :—

Sl. No.	Name of private Laboratories	Year		
		1985-86	1986-87	1987-88
		(*Rs. in lakhs*)		
1	ESKAPES(I) Pvt. Ltd., Dhanbad	5.70	3.90	5.08
2	Mitra S.K. Coal Inspection. Calcutta	2.41	2.57	3 49
	Superintendence Co. of India Pvt. Ltd., Calcutta.	0.38	....	0.12
	M/s. Coal Inspection Services, Dhanbad	6.27	6.65	5.55

(f) No such malpractice has been brought to the notice of the Government.

Coking coal unsuitable for steel production

3188. SHRI NARAYAN KAR : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that India's coking coal reserves are unsuitable for steel production and are likely to exhaust shortly;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the coal becomes costlier after blending and beneficiation;

(c) what are the factors necessitating the import of coking coal;

(d) what is the cost-benefit ratio; and

(e) what is its impact on the national economy ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COAL IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI C. K. JAFFAR SHARIEF) : (a) India's coking coal reserves are suitable for steel production after beneficiation. While the reserves of prime coking coal are limited, there is no apprehension of coking coal reserves in the country being exhausted in the foreseeable future.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) to (e). Main reasons for import of coking coal are shortfall in availability of prime coking coal from indigenous sources and the advantage that steel plants realise by blending superior imported coking coal with indigenous coking coal. While the import of a part of the requirement of coking coal of the steel industry has no adverse impact on the indigenous coal industry, it helps the steel industry to upgrade the coal which is charged in the Coke Ovens.

Opening of a branch of Delhi Public School at Dhanbad

3189. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received two memorandum dated 9th April, 1988 and 25th July, 1988 from Koyala Khadan Shikshak Morcha, Kustore. Dhanbad;

(b) if so, what are their demands;

(c) whether they were assured by Government on 9th April 1988 that a uniform educational policy would be introduced in CIL;

(d) if so, whether this assurance is being implemented; if not, what are the reasons therefor;

(e) whether it is a fact that the BCCL have decided to open a branch of Delhi Public School at Dhanbad and have advertised for posts of teachers;

(f) if so, whether Government are aware of the plight of the existing teachers in BCCL, Dhanbad that would be caused by the opening of public school; and

(g) what steps Government propose to take to safeguard the interests of the existing teachers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COAL IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI C. K. JAFFAR SHARIEF) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The demands include, *inter-alia*, payment of grants-in-aid to privately run schools in Dhanbad area at enhanced rates, revision of pay scales and other service conditions of the teaching staff almost at par with the Government teachers.

(c) to (g). Representatives of the Koyla Khadan Shikshak Morcha keep on meeting the various authorities in this connection from time to time. A delegation of the Morcha met the Drector (Personnel) of BCCL on 12-4-88 and submitted a memorandum to him. The position of the company on various issues raised in their memoranda was clarified to them. It may be added that coal companies actively promote spread of educational facilities in the coalfields and in pursuance of this policy the coal companies have been actively assisting private entrepreneurs, financially and in other ways, in the establishment and maintenance of educational institutions in their areas. The companies, however,